

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

July 21, 2020
Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm

Public Services Committee Members Present; Juan Topete, Ceri Otero

Members Absent; Mike Daugherty, James Harrison

Staff Present; Tom Short, Mark Peterson, and Kailey Williams

Non-Members Present:

At 5:30 P.M., Mr. Topete called the meeting to order.

Old Business:

1. Consider and approve minutes from previous meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

STAFF REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director- Mark Peterson

Fourth of July- Firework show turned out great. Attendance was low as expected due to COVID. Signage was placed around the park to encourage social distancing and proper hand washing. Carthage Fire Department and Carthage Police Department did an outstanding job keeping the Golf Course and the park safe. Next year we are hoping for a larger event for the city incorporating more activities for families.

Jasper County Youth Fair (JCYP) - The fair had a great week. They finished up with getting the activities done that were most important to them. Some complaints arose from not allowing public access. Signage was destroyed by an individual, but new was put in place. After the fair, all involved filled out questionnaires related to potential COVID exposure and created a sound method for contact tracing if any issues came up. No reported cases related to COVID have been reported.

Baseball/Softball- Regular seasons are finished. One state tournament is left this week; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Four teams. Many city leagues did not have complete seasons to participate.

Saddle Club- This upcoming Saturday they are hosting a bigger event. Signage is being placed around the arena and parking areas.

Memorial Hall- The doors will open back up 8/1. All events have cancelled on their own

until 8/14. We have some events scheduled, but very few. Most are parties and quinceaneras, which are expecting larger crowds. Banners and signs are in place.

Civil War Museum- Doors will be open 8/1.

COVID 19- We are in need of more signage to put up in areas with events. Council meetings potentially moving to Memorial Hall. Park Department staff has had no issues with COVID up to this point. Doors to the Park Office will open 8/1.

Golf Course- Numbers in June were great! They spikes all around the nation. Memberships have dropped noticeably, but green fee rounds have gone up. July numbers are starting out fair. With a decent week, it should boost numbers to hit our target. Our new maintenance team has done a great job for us so far. We are still looking for a full time employee on the Golf Maintenance side at the Pro Shop. Several events will happen over the next three months. We are hosting more in a shorter amount of time.

Kellogg Lake- South Shelter repairs and pavilion repairs are still in the making.

Central Park-The Wading Pool will open 8/1. Irrigation lines have been installed to the flowerbeds. The Majority of the flowerbeds will be redone over the next 4-6 weeks. New rose bushes and other plantings. Food truck Friday, as of right now, it still cancelled for July. Speaking with CVB to discuss FTF in August.

Carter Park- Activity in the park has picked up.

Griggs Park- Pickle Ball courts are getting close, concrete contractors are starting formation of the courts today. Pouring should be done by Friday. Community Gardens spots have been filled over the last week. Some finishing touches should be done for fall planting. Chanti has prepared rental agreements and a mission statement for the gardens. They are being reviewed before working with the public. John Hacker is doing a story in the Joplin Globe related to Griggs Park relating to a health segment.

Fair Acres- We have been dealing with a light pole issue that has got quick expensive. A ballast and short in the wiring set us back approximately \$1500.

Municipal Park- Shelter reservations are down tremendously. A few smaller activities are coming up. More individual activity is taken place in the park. Since the backstops have been taken down, more activity has been happening in the open areas.

Overall in the Parks- We are trying to control weeds better in the parks. A couple of spray applications have happened. We are also trying to trim more frequently. Attempting to make the parks more attractive for the community with the resources, we have at hand. Tree work is needed, greatly. Staff is doing a great job keeping everything up best they can.

Mr. Short added the Golf numbers that were in the packet that was sent out to the Council or Committee should have been the final number of the fiscal year of 2020. Revenue came in short. Golf Course made a turn around. Budget is being worked on. Some of the projects planned for this year did not go through. The money is being given to next year's budget. Meetings are taking place. The mayor's task force met via teleconference talked about distributing roughly the 20,000 masks. They are wanting to distribute them through the YMCA, the city, Pastor Bonilla hoping he will distribute to the Hispanic community and the church. Possibly the schools with graduation coming up. Mr. Topete did not like the idea of just having Pastor Bonilla as a source. The community is much bigger. Limiting five masks per person. The masks are reusable and cleaning instructions are added.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 P.M.